

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
Prefiled Resolution

RS.16.01 Resolution concerning the formation of an ad hoc committee concerning senators' use of non-official communications to advise campus administrators

WHEREAS, Phyllis Wise resigned her position as chancellor, effective August 12, stating that “external issues have arisen over the past year that have distracted us from the important tasks at hand, ... diverting much needed energy and attention from our goals;”

WHEREAS, the reputation of the University, especially the Urbana campus, has clearly been damaged around these and other issues, once again raising questions about the campus administration’s commitment to ethical conduct, shared governance, academic freedom, and racial and ethnic diversity, leading, among other consequences, to censure by the American Association of University Professors;

WHEREAS, the participation of some faculty senators and members of Senate committees in deliberate use of non-official communications as a means of offering private advice to the chancellor and other administrators on important university matters has raised the question of a possible violation of standards of shared governance;

WHEREAS, numerous documents—including, most recently, Provost’s Communication No. 27 on “Shared Governance for Academic Units,” issued October 2014, and the University Senates Conference’s “White Paper on Shared Governance at the University Level,” approved May 26, 2015—have established clear norms and expectations for shared governance, including (quoting from the USC White Paper) “active participation by faculty at all levels in decisions and decision processes,” “clear statutory rules and organizational structures,” productive relationships between faculty and administrators “through the established structures of shared governance,” and transparency and openness in communications;

BE IT RESOLVED, that an ad hoc Senate committee be established to consider what, if any, Senate procedures, ethical norms, or best practices of shared governance may have been violated and that the ad hoc committee shall determine what actions should be taken to protect and reinforce Senate norms and practices (including whether referrals should be made to other appropriate bodies). This ad hoc committee should be established by the Committee on Committees in accordance with Senate *Bylaws* Parts B.5 and B.6. In order to ensure the integrity of the process, faculty actively involved in these private e-mail exchanges concerning University matters may not be members of the ad hoc committee. The ad hoc committee should report back to the Senate at its meeting on November 16, 2015.

Submitted by senators:

Hadi Esfahani (Department of Business Administration)

Erik McDuffie (African American Studies and Asian American Studies)

Harriet Murav (Comparative and World Literatures and Slavic Languages and Literatures)

Chantal Nadeau (Gender and Women’s Studies)

Rolando Romero (Latina/Latino Studies)

Mark Steinberg (History)

Robert Warrior (American Indian Studies)